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tolerance has masked its overbearing designs. A complete toleration liberally and *unconditionally* bestowed, is the most effectual means of removing the dangers arising from opposing sects. Intolerance on the part of the established sect produces a re-action from the others, and thus religious feuds become dangerous to the peace of a state, while if only a wise forbearance is practised, diversity of sentiment on the subject of religion does not interrupt the general harmony. Controul of opinions, and not the free exercise of them has in all ages and among all sects produced the danger.

OFFICIAL DOCUMENT.

The following State-paper was referred to in the Commercial Report for last month: it was then intended to have been inserted, but want of room prevented it.

Letter from the Minister for Foreign Affairs, to General Armstrong, Minister Plenipotentiary from the United States of America.

"Altenburgh, Aug. 22.

"SIR—Being informed that you are about to dispatch a vessel for America, his Majesty has charged me to make known to you the immutable principles which have regulated, and will continue to regulate, his conduct as to the grand point of difference respecting Neutrals.

"France admits the principle, that the flag protects the merchandize. A merchant vessel having a clearance from her Government, ought to be considered as a floating colony. The violation of such a vessel by searches, prosecutions, and other acts of arbitrary power, is a violation of the territory of a colony, and an attack upon the independence of its Government. The seas belong exclusively to no nation; they are the common property of states, the domain of all.

"Merchant vessels of an enemy, being the property of private individuals ought to be respected. Private individuals, who take no share in hostilities, ought not to be made prisoners. In all her conquests France has respected private property. Warehouses and shops have been left in the possession of their owners. They have been permitted to dispose of their merchandize, as they thought proper; and at this moment there are cargoes, particularly of cotton, passing in waggons through the French army, and through Austria and Germany, to proceed to whatever destination commerce may assign them. If France had adopted the practises of maritime warfare, all the merchandize of the Continent would have been accumulated in France, and often have constituted a source of incalculable wealth.

"Such would undoubtedly have been the assumptions of England, had the English possessed the same superiority by land, which they have at sea. We should, as in the times of barbarism, have seen the vanquished sold as slaves, and their lands divided among the victors. Mercantile cupidity would have engrossed every thing, and the Government of an enlightened nation, that has carried the arts of civilization to the highest pitch of perfection, would have given the first example of renewing the practises of barbarous ages. That Government is well aware of the injustice of its Maritime code. But what does it heed injustice? Its only inquiry is, what is useful.

"When France shall have acquired a naval force proportionate to the extent of her coasts and her population, the Emperor will gradually reduce these principles to practice, and exert himself to procure their general adoption. The right, or rather the assumption, of blockading rivers and coasts, by proclamation, is equally insolent and absurd. No right can possibly spring out of the mere will and caprice of one of the interested parties, but must originate in the actual nature of the things to which it belongs. No place is properly in a state of blockade, but when it is invested by land and by water. It is put under blockade, to cut off all means of assistance by which the surrender may be retarded; and in this case only accrues the right of preventing neutral ships from entering it; because, the place so attacked is in danger of being taken, and the dominion of it is undecided, and still in dispute, between the commander of the town and those who blockade or invest it: and from this arises the right of prohibiting neutrals from entering the place.

"The sovereignty and independence of the flag, like the sovereignty and independence of a territory, is the property of all neutrals. A state may surrender itself to another, divest itself of its independence, and undergo a change of Sovereigns; but the rights of sovereignty are indivisible and unalienable; the smallest particle of them cannot be ceded.

"England proclaimed France in a state of blockade. The Emperor, by his decree of Berlin declared the British Islands to bein a state of blockade. The former measure excludes neutral vessels from France, the latter prohibits them from going to England.

"England, by her Cabinet orders of the 11th of Nov. 1807, laid a tax upon neutral vessels, and compelled them to enter her harbours, before they can proceed to their place of destination. By the decree of the 17th of December, of the same year, the Emperor declared all such vessels denationalized, whose flag is violated, insulted, and trampled upon.

"To protect herself against the spoliations, wherewith such a state of things menaced her commerce, America laid on an embargo in her harbours, and though France, which had only exercised the right of retaliation, was aware that her own interests and those of her Colonies must suffer much from such a measure, yet the Emperor applauded the magnanimous resolution of renouncing all commerce, rather than acknowledge the sovereignty and tyranny of the seas.

"The embargo has been taken off, and a system of exclusion has been substituted for it. The powers of the Continent, in alliance against England, make common cause; they have the same object in this war; they must reap the same advantages; they must also run the same risks. The ports of Holland, the Elbe, the Weser, Italy and Spain, will enjoy no advantage of which France would be deprived. They will, all of them, be open or shut at the same time, with regard to any commercial intercourse with them.

"Thus, Sir, in point of principle, France recognizes the freedom of neutral commerce, and the independence of the Maritime Powers, which she respected up to the moment when the maritime tyranny of England, that respects nothing, and the arbitrary proceedings of its Government, compelled her to adopt measures of retaliation, to which she resorted with regret. Let England revoke her blockade of France, and France will recall her declaration of blockade against England. Let England revoke her Cabinet Orders of the 11th November, 1807, and the Milan Decree will expire of itself. The American commerce will then recover its complete freedom, and be assured of finding in the harbours of France favour and protection. But it belongs to the United States to attain this happy object, by their firmness. Can a nation, resolved to remain free, hesitate between certain momentary independence, her honour, her sovereignty, and her dignity?"

PUBLIC OCCURRENCES.

BRITISH.

Paris papers state, that the royal institution of Amsterdam chose Mr. Roscoe a corresponding member, in the place of Muller, the Swiss, lately deceased. Such acts as these abate the rancour of national hostility, and alone, perhaps, prove, that modern warlike nations are not absolutely barbarous. It would give us unspeakable pleasure to record similar acts of magnanimity on the part of our country. Are Britons only insensible to all excellence that is not British?

In a former number we gave an account of the ill usage sustained by Ann Izard, who was foolishly supposed to be a witch. We now subjoin the sentence pronounced against the absurd and cruel votaries of superstition:

THE KING, v. AMEY AND OTHERS.

Mr. Serjeant Sellon moved for judgment on five men and five women, who had been convicted at the assizes for Huntingdon, in May 1808, on two different indictments for riotously assembling, breaking into the dwelling house of Wright Izard, assaulting Ann, his wife, scratching her with pins to the effusion of her blood, on the 8th and 9th of May, in two different bodies, there being six of the defendants on the former night, and four on the latter.

It appeared that two of the women rioters having taken up the impression, that they laboured under some bodily weakness, which was occasioned by the prosecutrix, and that they could only be liberated from this dominion by letting out some of the prosecutrix's blood, had so far inspired many of their deluded neighbours with their absurd prejudice, as to occasion the riotous assembling in question.

Mr. Justice Grose, in an appropriate charge, pointed out the impossibility of the charge against this poor woman, who had been the object of their ignorance and barbarity. The wisdom of our forefathers had so clearly ascertained that the idea of witchcraft, was entirely fabulous, that all punishment for the exercise of witchcraft, sorcery, enchantment, and conjuration were exploded from our statute book, and in lieu thereof the pretenders to skill in any of these supposed arts, were to be visited with exemplary punishment, it